

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SOUTHERN PRESS.

GOVERNOR WALKER AND KANSAS.

THE VERY MEDDLESOME little gentleman, whose name heads this article, seems to be determined to exhaust entirely his stock of popularity, which was considerable less than a year since.

He, among all the statesmen of the day, seems alone to have failed to appreciate the great principles which recommended the Kansas Nebraska act to the sound thinking men of the country, to wit: Non-interference. Either this or he has made a very silly blunder to the evident disgust imposed upon him.

According to our idea, his course should have been that best expressed by Mr. Calhoun as a "masterly inactivity" he should have gone into the Territory upon a peaceable mission, he should have had no party combinations of any kind, nor have tried to induce this or that side to take this or that step—as a man with some sense should be able to see two boys have a bout at fistfists, and as long as they confine them selves to the legitimate proceedings of such an encounter, why a black eye or bloody nose, will not interfere; yet when they proceed to roughing, or using bricks or stones, will put in his strong arm, and command the combatants to cease. So should it have been with the Governor of Kansas—he should have stood calm, impartial, and decided the friend of neither party, and his arm should have been only raised to strike for the majesty of the law.

His career has been a short one, (and, if the telegraph speaks truly, will soon terminate,) and he has failed to leave behind him a name to be guilty of more palpable violations of the principle upon which our Territories are hereafter to form themselves into independent sovereign states than that of Governor Walker.

His first exploit was his inaugural address, his second, the Topeka speech—his third was giving his written opinion that the payment of the territorial debt was not a necessary condition of qualification to vote—his fourth was inducing the United States soldiers to vote, in direct violation of one of the principal clauses of the Kansas act—his fifth was his declaration that he would not permit any man to vote who had been convicted of a crime.

His friends of the Administration, and no doubt the Administration itself, must have felt hurt at the Georgia and Mississippi resolutions, yet time has fully justified the course that our Governor Walker took. To some it appeared to argue a lack of confidence in Mr. Buchanan, but it was not so. Those resolutions were proposed by his most ardent supporters, and trust and reliance has been given to a declaration that he would not do it, though the opposition took the extreme Southern ground, and held out the bait to tempt men of warm political convictions, we have yet to see if any of our ablest statesmen, or any of our men who have deserted the standards of the party, or have been disposed to doubt the fidelity of the President.

From the Charleston Mercury.

GOVERNOR WALKER'S COURSE.

BUT, admitting that all the objections of the Governor and his Secretary were perfectly good—that the oath taken by the governors of the elections should have been inscribed on their returns—that the roll of the names of the voters should be the most abundant grounds for expunging the names of those who do it. The law had not elevated them into judges of the elections. The Secretary was nothing but a recording and ministerial officer. Their duty was to certify to the returns of the governor and the Secretary.

From the Richmond (Va.) South.

A STILL STRONGER VIEW ON THE SAME SIDE.

WE HAVE NEVER known an act in which not only the relation of the Federal authorities to the State Government, but the harmony of the several departments of the same Government, were so grossly violated as in the case of Governor Walker. He was not a man of Governor Walker had seen a regiment of Free-Soilers, each with his carpet-bag and walking-stick, duty with travel, arrive at the polls, and cast their suffrages for the Free-Soil ticket. If the judges of election allowed such a scene to vote, Governor Walker could not have prevented them.

A strong-minded but illiterate justice was once told, that no decree could be pronounced against a party, because, technically speaking, he was not "in court." "But," said the justice, "he is in court—I see him. The court shall decree against him." In the case of Kansas, even if the most flagrant frauds had been perpetrated against the law of suffrage—and we by no means believe or admit that we have been the victims of such a fraud in the case of Kansas—the court could not have done it. The official view of the Governor, and he had no power to arrest or prevent them. The responsibility for each wrong, with the power of prevention or redress, was in the hands of the people—the remedy was with the representatives of the people. The fact of the violation of the law is no reason for the abrogation of the law by the act of a fancifulary sworn to observe it.

We can explain this open violation of duty by Governor Walker by one theory. It is confirmed by the *Evening Star*, a Free-Soil paper. He is determined to throw off the allegiance to the Democratic Administration, and place himself "at the head of a party at the North, against which the Administration would be powerless."

From the Richmond (Va.) South.

A PRO-SLAVERY VIEW OF KANSAS AFFAIRS.

FROM THE CHARLOTTE WEAVER, OCT. 20, 1857.

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